



May 2002

# The Bay Leaf

California Native Plant Society • East Bay Chapter • Alameda & Contra Costa Counties

## Calendar of Events

### **Chapter Plant Sale Activities**, page 2

May 1, Wednesday, May 7, 14, 21, 28, Tuesdays, 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

### **Native Plant Restoration Team**, page 4

May 4, June 1, July 6, Saturdays.

### **Native Here Nursery**, page 3

May 7, 14, 21, 28, Tuesdays, 9 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Also Fridays and Saturdays.

### May 8, Wednesday, 7:30 p.m., **Board of Directors**

**Meeting**, home of Scott and Jenny Fleming, 2750 Shasta Road, Berkeley.

### **Field Trips**, page 3

May 11, Saturday, Mines Road/Del Puerto Canyon Road.

May 26, Sunday, Los Trancos Open Space Preserve.

### **California Wildflower Show**, page 2

May 12, Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. May 13, Sunday, noon-5:00 p.m.

### **Membership Meeting**, see below.

May 22, Wednesday, 7:30 p.m.

## Membership Meeting

### **Conserving the Pines on Guadalupe and Cedros Islands: A Multinational Expedition**

*Speaker: Dr. Deborah Rogers*

Wednesday, May 22, 7:30 p.m.

Conference Center, University of California Botanical Garden

The native range of Monterey pine (*Pinus radiata*) is narrowly restricted, disjunct, and binational. In addition to the three coastal California locations (Año Nuevo, Monterey peninsula, and Cambria area), there are Monterey pine populations on two Mexican islands off Baja California—Guadalupe and Cedros Islands. Challenges to the California populations—including habitat loss to residential and recreational developments, habitat fragmentation from transportation corridors, and significant tree mortality from an introduced fungal disease—prompted a chapter of CNPS to petition to have the species listed as threatened under the California Endangered Species Act.

However, the Monterey pine population of most concern is that on Guadalupe Island, where only approximately 200 mature trees (and no regeneration) remain. Goats introduced to the island over a century ago have provided constant grazing pressure

and there has been no natural regeneration of the pines there for decades. The pines on Cedros Island are more plentiful and reproducing well, but there is little known about the apparently frequent fire cycles and genetic diversity of this population.

In May 2001 Dr. Deborah Rogers organized a multinational expedition to Guadalupe and Cedros Islands to determine the status of the pines, collect seeds for conservation and research purposes, and gather other information that could be used to inform restoration plans. Dr. Rogers' presentation will provide dramatic views and recent insights on the pines of these two Mexican islands; their conservation prospects and opportunities; and the international interests and concerns that led to a successful, constituency-building, and infinitely memorable expedition.

Deborah Rogers is a Conservation Geneticist with the University of California's Genetic Resources Conservation Program. She conducts research on genetic diversity and structure in temperate forest tree species and seeks appropriate and effective means by which to incorporate this information into conservation plans and forest management.

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East Bay Chapter CNPS membership meetings are free of charge and open to everyone. This month's meeting will take place in the Conference Center of the University of California Botanical Garden on Centennial Drive, east of Memorial Stadium, above the main campus of the University of California in Berkeley. The Garden gate will open at 7:00 p.m.; the meeting begins at 7:30 p.m. Refreshments will be served after the meeting. CNPS books and other publications will be on display and available for purchase. Please contact Sue Rosenthal, 510-496-6016 or [rosacalifornica@earthlink.net](mailto:rosacalifornica@earthlink.net), if you have any questions.

Membership programs will be on summer break from June through August and will resume on September 25.

Annual East Bay chapter picnic: Saturday, August 17, at the Regional Parks Botanic Garden (more information in the next two issues of the *Bay Leaf*).

*Sue Rosenthal*

### East Bay Chapter Invites Applications for 2002 Scholarships

Our chapter will award five scholarships of \$1000 each to undergraduate or graduate students in botany, horticulture, and related fields interested in working with California native plants. An outstanding candidate will also be awarded the Myrtle Wolf Scholarship. Preference is given to students working on or with native plants in Alameda and Contra Costa counties, though other applications will be considered.

Applicants should submit the following information:

1. Your name and present address;
2. The school you are now attending;
3. The address where you can be reached at the close of school (particularly in May and June);
4. The school you will be attending in the summer or fall of 2002;
5. A description of your work with California native plants to date and your plans for future work with California native plants;
6. Two letters of recommendation that substantiate your work with California native plants; and
7. A current transcript from the school you last attended.

Send your application to:

The California Native Plant Society, East Bay Chapter  
Donations Committee  
c/o McCoy  
1311 Bay View Place

Berkeley, CA 94708

By fax: c/o McCoy - 510-644-4428

By e-mail: [wbmccoy@earthlink.net](mailto:wbmccoy@earthlink.net)

(Please put *EBCNPS Scholarship* in the subject line).

Application deadline is May 17, 2002.

*Sandy McCoy*

### California Wildflower Show

More than 150 species of freshly gathered flowers of the Sierran foothills will be on display in this year's annual California Wildflower Show at the Oakland Museum of California on Mother's Day weekend (Saturday May 11 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday May 12 from noon to 5 p.m.).

The annual exhibition features native flowers gathered in the field, brought into the museum and sorted, identified, and labeled by botanists, then artfully presented in single species arrangements by volunteers. The annual Wildflower Show is organized by the Natural Sciences Department of the Oakland Museum of California in collaboration with the California Native Plant Society; the Jepson Herbarium of the University of California, Berkeley; the University of California Botanical Garden; the East Bay Municipal Utility District; and the Natural Sciences Guild and members of the Oakland Museum of California.

Volunteers with a background in botany are especially needed to answer questions from the public during the weekend. Contact Tony Morosco (510) 528-5426.

### Plant Sale Activities

#### Propagation and Potting Sessions

Wednesday

May 1

Tuesdays

May 7, 14, 21, 28

9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Merritt College, Oakland

Landscape Horticulture

Parking fee: 50 cents



Come for all or part of the work sessions. No experience is necessary. Bring a bag lunch for the noon break.

For information call 925-376-4095.

**The East Bay Chapter Annual Plant Sale** will be held on October 4-5, Saturday and Sunday, at Merritt College.

*Plant Sale Committee*

## Field Trips

Saturday, May 11 **David Margolies** will lead a driving tour of **Mines Road/Del Puerto Canyon Road**. With all the rain, this should be an abundant flowering year on Mines Road. This area of eastern Alameda County, northeastern Santa Clara County, and western Stanislaus County has a large number of herbaceous wildflowers and shrubs, among them Brewer's clarkia, thornmints, and blazing stars. A partial flora of the area lists over 100 taxa that bloom in early May.

This is an all day trip. Meet David at 10:00 a.m. at the Dublin/Pleasanton BART station parking lot to organize into car pools and drive to Mines Road at the south end of Livermore. The trip will stop numerous times on Mines Road and Del Puerto Canyon Road and return to the meeting point at approximately 5:00 p.m. Bring lunch and plenty of fluids to drink. Be warned that this is a tick area.

To facilitate organization, please sign up for the trip by calling David Margolies at (510) 654-0283 or e-mail [dm@franz.com](mailto:dm@franz.com), and also receive additional information. Maximum number of participants is 20.

Sunday May 26, at 2:30 p.m. David Margolies will lead a field trip to **Los Trancos Open Space Preserve**. Los Trancos contains Coralroot Orchids and many other flowering plants native to the Mid-Peninsula Open Space Preserve system. After taking the Los Trancos trail for about one mile, participants will also visit some other parks in the area.

How to get there: Take 280 south to its junction with 84/Woodside Road. Take Woodside Road west (up the hill) through Woodside to Skyline Boulevard. Turn left (south) on Skyline and go to Page Mill Road. Turn left (east) on Page Mill, and the park is about a 1/2 mile further on the left, before a steep downhill area.

Notice the columbines on the right where the side of the road is wooded.

You can also take 280 to Page Mill Road and come up to the park via Page Mill. If you reach Skyline Boulevard, you have gone about one 1/2 mile too far.

**Sudden Oak Death** has been confirmed in several locations in Alameda County (Berkeley and Palomares Creek area of Castro Valley) Apparently, the disease has not struck in other areas of Alameda County and has so far not been confirmed in Contra Costa County. Continue to enjoy field trips, but please help prevent the spread of Sudden Oak Death beyond its current range.

While in infested areas:

Park your vehicle only in designated parking areas;

Stay on established paths and respect trail closures; Do not collect wood, plants, plant parts, or soil; Avoid muddy areas, if possible.

Before going to uninfested areas:

Clean soil and mud off shoes, mountain bikes,

horses' hooves, and pets' paws;

Wash mud and soil off tires, wheel wells, and the undercarriage of your vehicle.

If it is impractical to wash shoes before leaving the field trip area, please bring an extra pair of shoes to wear home and wash any soil off your hiking shoes to prevent spread of Sudden Oak Death pathogens.

*Janet Gauthrop*

## Native Here Nursery

Volunteers are welcome to come looking for seeds any Tuesday. Just meet at the nursery entrance, 101 Golf Course Drive in Tilden Park, at 9 a.m. Destinations are not announced in advance. There is usually some driving and hiking involved, and we return to the nursery by 1 or 1:30.

Occasionally forays will take longer, but that will usually be mentioned the previous week. Bring water; wear adequate covering to protect from scratches, contact dermatitis, bugs, etc. We try to stick near trails, but sometimes do a bit of bush-whacking. Seed walks are led by Charli Danielsen, and permits are in hand. Members with access to natural stands of local natives are encouraged to contact the nursery about collecting seeds at their convenience.

The seeds collected last year are merrily germinating and need many hands to pot the plants up. Fridays and Saturdays, volunteers are welcome to come lend a hand. No need to phone beforehand, Margot or Charli will find work for you! This time of year is busy with growing plants, preparing seeds, etc. Although customers do come by, it is not the optimum time for planting, and the focus is on preparing as many plants as possible to be ready for fall sale and for planting into contracted projects.

We have copies of *A Vegetation Management Almanac for the East Bay Hills* to sell at the nursery. It has color plates of local weeds and discussion of an integrated weed management approach to reducing vegetation loads for improving fire safety. Also available will be the *Gardener's Guide to Native Plants* that Aquatic Outreach Institute recently published.

*Charli Danielsen*

## Native Plant Restoration Team

Saturday, May 4: Berkeley Waterfront with Susan Schwartz and the Friends of Five Creeks. Meet at 10 a.m. behind the Seabreeze Market, at the foot of University Avenue, just west of I-80.

Saturday, June 1: Skyline Serpentine Prairie. Our annual hunt for yellow star thistle, which is yielding great results. 10 a.m.

Saturday, July 6: Mitchell Canyon, Mount Diablo. See the next Bay Leaf for details.

Bring your favorite gloves or tools; we also have such to share. Call 510/840-9367 if rain is falling for a recorded update on the morning of the event.

Noah Booker

## Depth of Field in Plant Photography

This is the first article in an occasional series on plant photography. I have been taking photos for many years, but am not a professional and this is written with the amateur enthusiast in mind.

This month I will focus on depth of field. A good photograph requires, among other things, both the right amount of light (exposure), and the right amount of sharpness. Sharpness can present a real challenge when pictures are taken at close range. This magnifies the effects of breezes or camera movement. In addition, careful focusing is required at close distances and the issue of depth of field becomes crucial. Depth of field refers to how much of a subject from the front of the scene to the back is in focus at the same time. For example, if you focus on a flower a yard away, distant mountains will usually be blurry, and vice versa. Here, depth of field is inadequate to keep the whole image sharp at any one focus setting, and you must choose which feature you want in focus. Sometimes this is a good thing -for example when you wish to blur the background to make it less distracting behind a sharply focused plant. At other times, for example with a three-dimensional subject at close range, you may want the maximum possible depth of field.

If you have a camera system where you can set your own aperture (f-stop), you can substantially control the depth of field. To increase depth of field, reduce the aperture by setting a numerically higher f-stop. (Note, the higher the numerical f-stop the smaller the aperture, i.e., the opening in the lens diaphragm, because an f-stop, such as f16, actually refers to the focal length of the lens f divided by the number 16). The smaller the aperture, the greater the depth of

field. You can remember this if you think of a trade-off. The more depth of field you want, the less light you have coming through the lens. This means you must get the needed light by using a longer exposure time or flash to make the subject brighter.

I usually set my camera to manual mode when photographing plants. I check depth of field at various f-stops and choose the most appropriate. Note that most modern lenses are automatic, that is, even when the camera is set to manual, the lens remains at its most open (to give the most light for focussing) and closes to the set f-stop only when the shutter is fired. But you can override this if your camera has a depth- of-field preview feature: you can then close the diaphragm to its set f-stop while you are looking through the lens. Although most lenses have marks for estimating depth of field, it is better to look through the lens and see for yourself how sharp the image is. I consider depth of field preview an essential feature in a camera for plant photography.

The other variable that determines depth of field is magnification. The larger the image size on the film compared to the size of the subject, the less the depth of field. Larger image sizes can be obtained either by moving closer to the subject or by using lenses with longer focal lengths (telephoto lenses). Either method reduces depth of field by the same amount. Although telephoto lenses appear to have less depth of field than wider angle lenses, this simply reflects their greater magnification. If you move closer to the subject with the wider angle lens, until it appears the same size in the viewfinder as it did with the telephoto from further away, you will find the same depth of field in both cases. The only way to increase it at a given magnification is to stop the lens down more.

Finally, remember that depth of field is determined by the laws of optics and has nothing to do with the quality of a lens. Money can buy better lenses, but it can't buy you better depth of field.

John Game

## Come to the Rainshadow

May 31 to June 2, 2002 is the CNPS Chapter Council meeting weekend, hosted by the Bristlecone Chapter. All members and their families are welcome. We will meet at Camp Inyo at the base of the Sierra near Big Pine. Anyone is welcome at the Saturday Council meeting, where there will be valuable information sharing and interesting discussions about native plant issues. Delegates can vote, but all can participate. A portion of this meeting will solicit chapters' ideas on their "best outreachtricks".

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## Board of Directors

### Elected Officers

**President:**

Tony Morosco, 2329 7<sup>th</sup> St., Berkeley 94710, 549-2238, w/528-5426,  
tony-morosco@calflora.org

**Vice President, Administration:**

Elaine Jackson, 3311 Estudillo St., Martinez 94553, 925-372-0687

**Treasurer:**

Holly Forbes, 7128 Blake St., El Cerrito 94530, 234-2913, w/643-8040

**Secretaries:****Recording:**

Michele Lee, 2923 Sheldon Dr., Richmond 94803, 243-1265

**Corresponding:**

Joanne Kerbavaz, 1709 Berkeley Way, Apt. B, Berkeley 94703,  
JKERB@parks.ca.gov

### Past President

Barbara Ertter, 1859 Catalina Ave., Berkeley 94707, h/526-4592, w/  
643-0600

### Advisors

**Members at large:**

John Game, 1155 Spruce St., Berkeley 94707, 527-7855

Jim Sharp, 2663 LeConte Ave., Berkeley 94709, 644-344, itsa@dnai.com

### Bay Leaf Editor

Joe Willingham, 2512 Etna St., Berkeley 94704, 841-4681,  
pepe@dnai.com

**Recorded Chapter Information: 464-4977**

**CNPS Home Page:** <http://www.cnps.org>

**East Bay Chapter CNPS Home Page:**  
<http://www.ebcnps.org>

**Bay Leaf &  
Board meeting minutes online**

**Chapter CNPS-EB-Alerts E-mail List:**  
Find out more; email to [listserv@usobi.org](mailto:listserv@usobi.org) with:

**INFO CNPS-EB Alerts**

All area codes are 510 unless noted

## Membership Application

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_  
(optional)

I wish to affiliate with:

East Bay Chapter (Alameda and Contra Costa Counties)

Other \_\_\_\_\_

Mail application and check to: California Native Plant Society, 1722 J Street, Suite 17, Sacramento CA 95814

### Membership category:

- Student, Retired, Limited income, \$20
- Individual, Library, \$35
- Household, Family, or Group, \$45
- Supporting, \$75
- Plant lover, \$100
- Benefactor, \$500
- Life, \$1000

Come to the Rainshadow *continued from page 4*

Events planned by the host chapter—pick whatever suits your fancy—include:

- A field trip to McMurry Meadow near Camp Inyo on Friday afternoon.
- Dinner Friday evening (and the Board of Directors will meet Friday night)
- Chapter Council meeting Saturday
- Happy hour and dinner Saturday evening, and presentations on features of the area and on the "Flora of the Glass Mountains"
- Sunday field trips:
  1. Juniper Flat in the Inyo Mountains
  2. Dedecker Memorial Garden and other areas near Independence
  3. Long Valley and Glass Mountains area

For more information please contact Sherryl Taylor at [Sherryl76@aol.com](mailto:Sherryl76@aol.com). They need responses before 15 May to help them plan for the field trips, etc. And you'll need to get lodging lined up soon—motel, bunkhouse, campground, RV, etc.

*Jim Bishop, Chapter Council Delegate*



A close view of the endangered *Cordylathus palmatus*, photographed in the East Bay near Livermore by John Game.

**Annual East Bay Chapter Picnic  
Saturday, August 17, 2002  
at the Regional Parks Botanic Garden**

Friends, food and drink, garden tours, plant raffle, and more . . .  
Mark your calendar!

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**California Native Plant Society  
East Bay Chapter  
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